

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007457

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TC, QA, LY, IZ, EC

SUBJECT:SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO OPEC GOVERNMENTS

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REF: DOHA 0021 (NOTAL); ABU DHABI 0047 (NOTAL)

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD FOR ACTION

1. ON DEC 24, SECRETARY SENT LETTERS TO SEVEN OPEC GOVERNMENTS (THOSE LISTED AS INFO ADDRESSEES TO THIS CABLE) WHICH INCLUDED OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE TIMETABLE AND APPROACH TO MULTILATERAL PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE. THIS PROPOSAL STEMMED FROM AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND GISCARD D'ESTAING DURING THEIR DEC 14-16 MEETINGS IN MARTINIQUE. SECRETARY HAS, SINCE THAT TIME, SENT NO RPT NO SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT TO OTHER OPEC GOVERNMENTS. (N.B. AT ITS DISCRETION, EMBASSY DOHA MAY WISH TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT WITH KAWARI: NEITHER QATAR NOR UAE WAS AN ORIGINAL RECIPIENT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER.)

2. HOWEVER, AS RESULT ATTENTION MEDIA HAVE GIVEN SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AND IN AWARENESS OF SENSITIVITIES OF OTHER OPEC STATES SUCH AS THOSE NOTED IN REFTELS, ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE, AT THEIR DISCRETION, AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ORAL APPROACH TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL AND TO LEAVE FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE:

3. FOLLOWING STANDARD OPENING: QTE: EVER SINCE THE START OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, MANY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, HAVE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THE RIGHT TIME AND WITH THE RIGHT PREPARATIONS TO SUPPLEMENT THE INTENSIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THAT NOW EXIST BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING AND OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES WITH SOME FORM OF MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE.

4. QTE: RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE IN MARTINIQUE RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT ON A POSSIBLE TIMETABLE AND APPROACH TO SUCH MULTILATERAL CONTACTS, A PROPOSAL WHICH HAS NOW BEEN ENDORSED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY. UNDER THIS APPROACH THERE WOULD BE A FOUR PHASE SCHEDULE: FIRST, BASIC DECISIONS BY THE CONSUMERS ON CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY AND FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY; SECOND, A MEETING AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURES AND AGENDA FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE; THIRD, INTENSIVE PREPARATION OF COMMON POSITIONS FOR THAT CONFERENCE; AND FOURTH, THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

5. QTE: PARTICULAR STRESS HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE NEED FOR MAJOR ENERGY AND FINANCIAL DECISIONS BY THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN ADVANCE OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE BECAUSE A FAILED CONFERENCE WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL TO ALL,

CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS ALIKE. THAT IS ALSO A VIEW EXPRESSED BY MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES, WHO HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES, AND FINANCIAL STABILIZATION.

6. QTE: ALTHOUGH PREPARATION AMONG CONSUMERS IS THUS NECESSARY IN ADVANCE, IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT ALL CONTACTS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS BE CONDUCTED AS A BLOC TO BLOC DIALOGUE. ON THE CONTRARY, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN ITS BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH OIL PRODUCING GOVERNMENTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS SO THAT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL OIL CRISIS CAN BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE.

7. QTE: PRESIDENT FORD IS NOW COMPLETING A SERIES OF MAJOR DECISIONS ON DOMESTIC ENERGY POLICY. THESE DECISIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM.
ENERGY PROBLEM.

8. QTE: OVER THE COMING MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO KEEPING IN CLOSE CONTACT ON THESE ISSUES WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF OPEC STATES. UNQTE COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

9. PLEASE REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS. KISSINGER

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